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COUNTRY USSR (Kuibyshev Oblast)

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SUBJECT: Armament Plant No 525 at Kuibyshev-Bezmyanka

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The Stalin Armament Plant No 525 was 1 to 1.5 km west of the Kuybyshev-Bezymyanka switching yard, just north of the railroad line from this switching yard to the main station of Kuybyshev (53rd "N/50009R"). This plant, designated the Stalin Centrifuge Producing Plant, was an old plant with no new buildings. Until 1945 a large part of the machinery was of U.S. make, but after that the Russian machines and some of the U.S. machines were replaced by dismantled German machines. By the end of 1947 dismantled German machines comprised 70 percent of the plant's machinery. Power was allegedly supplied by a power plant just south of Plant No 525. The armament plant, however, did have a boiler house, and [] in addition a boiler house for natural gas heating.

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2. [redacted] the plant produced machinegun barrels of 7.6 mm and of about 20 mm. The finished 7.6 mm machine gun made with these barrels was said to be very similar to the German mode. 42 machine gun, especially in the type of air cooling and in the locking mechanism.

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3. [redacted] information on the plant's production is, however, conflicting. Each of the following sections was supplied [redacted]

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- a. In February 1947, each day 30 six-foot machine guns of about 12 mm were produced, but there was a wastage of 3 percent. These machine guns, which were air-cooled and both belt and magazine fed, were mounted in cockpits which had been delivered to the plant. The guns were then shipped by truck to the nearby aircraft plant.

- b. In November 1947 the plant produced each month about 250 twin-barreled machine guns of about 20 mm. These guns, whose belt feed was for 250 rounds 110 mm long, were air-cooled, having a steel jacket with milled perforations. This armament was allegedly produced to be mounted in tanks and airplanes.

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- c. As of November 1947 the plant was manufacturing machine guns with the [redacted]
[redacted] Each day the plant shipped out three carloads of machine guns
any other [redacted]

- d. In April 1948 [redacted] A-1 guns of about 30 mm were produced as were twin-barreled aircraft machine guns.

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e. In May 1948 there was a daily output of 38 x 20-mm machine guns for aircraft armament. Shipments left by truck. Since stocks for sub-machine guns were observed, [redacted] submachine guns were also produced.

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f. In May 1948 Soviets stated that fixed 20-mm aircraft armament was produced.

g. As of May 1948, the plant's production included 20-mm aircraft machine guns and barrels with calibers ranging from 50 to 70 mm.

h. In July 1948 a twin-barreled machine gun on a circular track about 1.4 meters in diameter was manufactured with an armored turret 12 mm thick and 1.1 to 1.2 meters high. This gun, whose barrel was about 130 cm long, was very similar to the German model h2 machine gun. The weapons were accepted by a naval officer. The plant's monthly production was 220 units prior to the summer of 1946 and 300 units since the summer of 1947.

i. Plant No 525 manufactured centrifuges of an antiquated type, lathes, and machine parts. [redacted] information dates up to June 1948, the plant produced each day one Stalino type milling machine and single parts for engines. [redacted] as of July 1948 that, according to Soviet statements, the monthly output of the plant was 30 shaping machines, 30 milling machines, 40 to 50 drilling machines, and 40 to 50 lathes. [redacted] information dates up to May 1949, reported the plant to be manufacturing drive wheel and track links for tractors and possibly also for tanks.

5. Estimates of the plant's workforce vary between 3,000 and 5,000. No air raid precautionary measures were observed. **

* [redacted] Comment. Bezmyanka, a suburb of Kuybyshev, should not be confused with the Bezmyanka at 49°55'N/43°01'E. See Annex for a layout sketch of Plant No 525 and a list of its installations. The existence of lead baths in the hardening shops indicates the employment of the so-called Bainit hardening process used by the U.S.S.R. especially in the manufacture of machine guns. In this process the pieces coming from the furnace are not chilled in a cold bath but are slowly cooled in a lead bath heated to the drawing temperature. This procedure has the advantage of producing a uniform grade of steel. Its disadvantage is that more time is needed for hardening. The high quality iron coming from Krivoi Rog is especially suited for this process.

** [redacted] Comment. This report confirms and supplements to a large degree the information on Plant No 525 in the records of the German Armed Forces. The foundry does not seem to have been established before the end of the war; it is not mentioned in the old German records. Judging from the reliability of the [redacted] the actual number of furnaces in the foundry is probably four.

1 Annex: Sketch.

(1) [redacted] Comments: Previous information indicates that the name of the plant No 525 is the Lenin Plant. The Stalin Plant produces aircraft.

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